(SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (c) In order to implement the obligations contained in the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs), which is a part of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement, India has time till January 1, 2000 to implement the obligations contained in the Agreement and further time till January 1, 2005 to introduce product patent protection to areas of technologies not protected so far. However, the member countries of WTO, who have opted to avail of the latter period, were required to comply with the obligations contained in Articles 70.8 and 70.9 of the TRIPs Agreement with effect from January 1, 1995.

In order to comply with these obligations which came into force from January 01,1995 and also to comply with. WTO rulings in the Indo-US Dispute on Patent Protection for Pharmaceutical and Agricultural Chemical products, Government is exploring different options and strategies.

Cent-per-cent FDI in cigerette Industry

819. SHRI RAJUBHAIU A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have dcided to allow 100 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI) in cigaretts industry;. and

(b) if so, how far it is a in consonance with Government's declared National agenda of Swadeshi spirit prohibiting FDI in non-essential consumer products in economy and ban on advertising tobacco products?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) The existing guidelines for consideration of Foreign Direct Investment proposals by FIPB do not stipulate any ceiling on the extent of foreign equity participation in consumer non-durables sector including cigarettes.

The National agenda for Governance refers to encouraging FDI in core sectors so as to usefully supplement national efforts and discouraging FDI in non-priority areas. As per para 7(e) of the guidelines for the consideration of FDI proposals by FIPB, items that have a direct or backward linkages with agro-business and/or farm sector are considered for foreign direct investment on priority.

सरकारी क्षेत्र में कार्यरत औद्योगिक इकाइयां

820. श्री कपिल सिब्बल:
श्री बरजिन्दर सिंह:

क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि वर्ष 1997-98 में सरकारी क्षेत्र में 253 औद्योगिक इकाइयां कार्यरत थीं;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो उनकी वास्तविक संख्या का अनुमान क्या है;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि इन संस्थाओं द्वारा गत तीन वर्षों अर्थात् 1995-96, 1996-97 और 1997-98 के दौरान लाभांश अर्जित किया गया है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो उपरोक्त प्रत्येक वर्ष के दौरान कितना-कितना लाभांश अर्जित किया गया;

(ङ) उपरोक्त प्रत्येक वर्ष के दौरान इन संस्थाओं में कितनी-कितनी धन राशि का निवेश किया गया; और

(च) उपरोक्त प्रत्येक वर्ष के दौरान इस धनराशि पर कितना-कितना ब्याज अदा किया गया?

उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखबीर सिंह बादल): (क) से (च) 31-3-1997 तक की जानकारी उपलब्ध है और उसके अनुसार उक्त अवधि तक केन्द्रीय सरकारी क्षेत्र में 236 उपक्रम प्रचालनरत थे। वर्ष 1995-96 तथा 1996-97 के दौरान केन्द्रीय